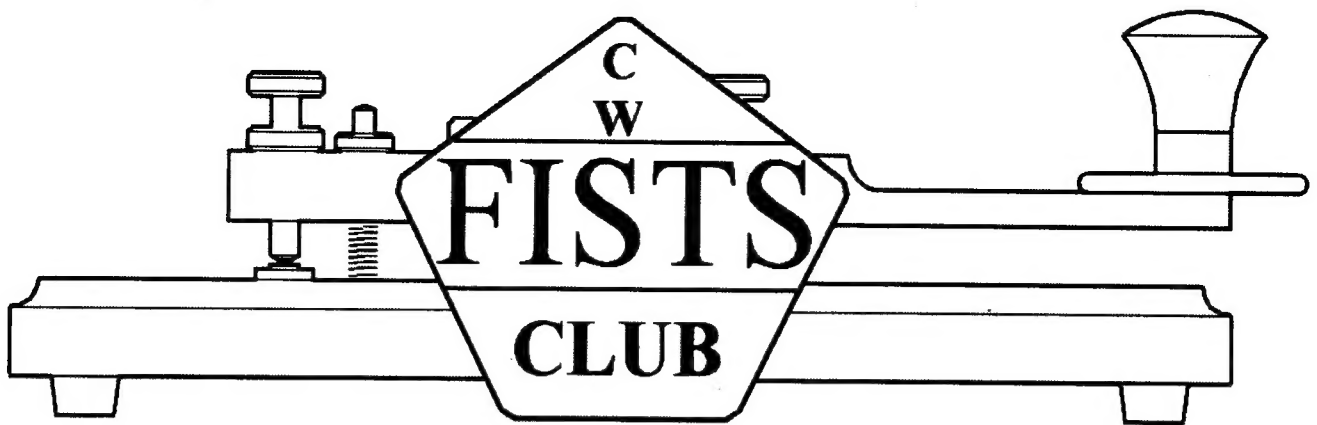


Issue 8 2007

The Keynote

North American Memo
Newsletter of FISTS CW Club
The International Morse Preservation Society



Our Goals:

- ✕ Further the use of CW
- ✕ Encourage newcomers to use Morse code
- ✕ Engender friendships among members

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend.”

When you have a question about FISTS, go to the source for the correct answer.

Posting a question on a chat room or email reflector may result in a lot of opinions, but your best bet is to ask a FISTS volunteer, look in the reference issue, or on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

Please put the word 'FISTS' somewhere in the title of your email. This will help the volunteer recognize that your email is important and not spam.

For questions about:

**North American Awards and Certificates contact
Dennis Franklin, K6DF, fistsawards@comcast.net**

**The QSL Bureau contact
Stan Reas, K4UK, k4uk@rev.net or see <http://www.fistsburo.org/>**

**Reserve a time to operate KN0WCW from your home! Contact our club call trustee.
Karl Zuege, KB1DSB, kb1dsb@sover.net.**

**The membership roster, call changes, name changes contact
Ed Hayes, N7CFA, n7cfa@msn.com**

**To get an application or sample Keynote sent to a friend contact
Jim Ranieri, AA9LS, aa9ls@turbotoads.com**

**Web page changes, getting your personal or club webpage linked, etc contact
Webmaster Bill Myers, KK4KF, kk4kf@cox.net**

**Club presentation packets contact
Joe Spencer, KK5NA, kk5na@kk5na.com**

**To change or include your email address on the FISTS email list contact
Kathi Hilton, N0FKA, fistelist@comcast.net (note no "s" in fistelist)**

**Code Buddy volunteers and buddies contact
Nick Yokanovich, K3NY, & The Historical Electronics Museum ARC w3hem@arri.net**

**Sprints contact
Dan Sheperd, N8IE, W8PIG@yahoo.com**

**Get Your Feet Wet Weekend and G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest contact
Lee Hallin, N7NU, hallinl@lanecc.edu**

Membership Renewal/New Membership/Keynote (Renewals = \$15/year unless you are 80+ or 18-, then renewals are free. Students over 18 are \$10. Paypal to fists@tir.com. Renewal checks made out to FISTS go to Nancy at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440.

All other questions, including supplies, tapes for the blind, address changes, general membership questions and articles for the Keynote contact Nancy Kott WZ8C, nancy@tir.com; PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440, phone 810-797-2033, fax 810-797-5808.

FISTS CW CLUB

THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

NANCY @TIR.COM PHONE: (810) 797-2033 FAX (810) 797-5808

Hello FISTS!

Are you going to be in the Pittsburgh area? The University of Pittsburgh is continuing with their Morse code/memory study and is still looking for volunteers. Tim, AC5SH, one of our FISTS who generously made arrangements to travel to that area to participate in the study received this email:

Hello Tim,

My name is Jody Manners, and I am the new student in charge of the Morse study that you previously participated in with Maryam. We have a new version of the experiment, and would like you to participate in it. It will take about an hour, and you will be compensated for your time.

I am in the LRDC between 11-4pm on Mondays, and 11-2pm on Wednesdays, during which times we would like to schedule you to come in. If these times are not good for you, I will be happy to make arrangements for another time. Please reply to this email to say whether you are interested in participating again, so that we may set up a time if you choose to become a subject.

Thank you for your time, Jody M.

The email address for the study is morcestudy@hotmail.com. If you can participate in the study, I'm sure the university would be thrilled. You will be paid. I'm not sure how much - probably not a whole lot, but it might be enough for lunch.

I have talked to people who participated and they

found the experience to be interesting and fun. You don't have to be a hot shot operator; it's not a speed or a proficiency test.

I want to remind you that Chuck Adam's K7QO Code Course CD is still available so you can make good on your upcoming New Year's Resolution to improve your code speed!

Send an SASE to me at PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440 with a note saying you want the code disk and I'll send a copy by return mail. We've had good luck with plain 6 x 9" manilla envelopes, they mail for 41 cents. If you use a padded or cardboard envelope, check with your post office for the correct postage.

There will be one more Keynote this year - it will be a whopper since I have a UK and a Down Under Keynote to include. If you have something you would like included, please send it along ASAP.

Did you notice we had color photos in Issue 7? I hope you liked it! I thought it looked pretty snazzy.

I'm also working on the Reference Issue 2008, if you have any suggestions for items of inclusion that were not in 2007's, drop me a note and let me know.

Merry Christmas es CU SKN! Nancy WZ8C

Correction:

In Issue 7 2007, page 5 (welcome new members) it lists number 13523 as being N9RZL. This is an error. Gale, N9RZL is number 4389.

13523 has been assigned to Randy K5RCD of Cross Plains, WI.

I apologize for any resulting confusion - Nancy WZ8C

Number Callsign First Name State Sponsor

13527	KI4POV	Will	AL	W7GVE
13528	N4XFF	STEVE	KY	
13529	W0OR	BILL	MN	WB2FXK
13530	KC0TZE	JOE	NE	
13531	KC0KBC	Mike	KS	
13532	N8NPP	STEVE	WV	
13533	KA8RTS	RICK	MI	
13534	K6VZT	BOB	CA	
13535	KB4QQJ	RANDY	NC	
13536	KD4AEH	Marsha	NC	
13537	VE3HNE	WALT	ON	Canada
13538	K7JJP	JIM	WA	
13539	WB5CEW	LARRY	MS	
13540	N2EII	Gerald	NJ	
13541	W4UCZ	MARK	GA	
13542	NG9Z	BERNIE	WI	
13543	WA3QWT	ERIC	PA	
13544	W0IKT	JOHN	SC	WZ8C
13545	KB2DHG	LOU	NY	
13546	KI4WLB	PAUL	VA	
13547	W6ODJ	Oliver	CA	
13548	KC1BC	ELLIS	MA	
13549	WA8ZFD	JOHN	MI	
13551	KE7FGE	Dave	WA	
13552	VE7DHJ	JOE	BC	Canada
13553	K1RTJ	FRED	CT	
13554	N4MGR	Matthew	NC	
13555	AI4VE	BILL	NC	
13556	KD0AWN	TOM	CO	
13557	K3EES	LARRY	CA	
13558	KA1BAB	JERRY	AZ	WB2FXK

13559	K2KN	Jerry	NY	
13560	W3CUV	NEAL	PA	WB2MIC
13561	KP4JLO	JOSE	PR	KP4DJ
13562	AF4SQ	RILEY	NC	
13563	W5BYQ	EARL	TX	N4VBV
13564	W8JWA	JIM	OH	K3IK
13565	KJ4ZX	JERRY	AL	
13566	K4AHO	JIM	FL	
13567	W7LRY	LARRY	CO	
13568	KB7GL	VIC	WA	
13569	KD3JK	BOB	MD	
13570	N4WHK	DENNIS	NC	W4DON
13571	N5OKW	SCOTT	TX	
13572	KE5PGG	LISA	TX	
13573	NK8T	George	OH	
13574	WA4NTM	JIM	AL	
13576	W5ZXM	JOHN	OK	
13577	KU0DM	DUNCAN	KS	
13578	W7CA	JOHN	WY	
13579	W6NRQ	STEVE	CA	
13580	K9IT	RAY	IL	
13581	N7BO	WILLIAM	UT	
13582	K8PAB	PABLO	MI	
13583	K0ZXQ	KEN	MO	W5GXV
13584	KB1BKA	DALE	MA	KB1HSA
13585	KP3BR	JIMMY	PR	KP4DJ

The sponsor for Mike, KC0KBC should have been listed as Joel, K0JEM.

CW

*Aurally implanted
cerebrally decoded
primary digital mode
text message protocol*

- Gene W5SXV, FISTS # 11849

New FISTS Supplies are Available

Inspired by the DX contingent, we offer static window clings. These are removable with no glue or stickiness of any sort. The graphic looks correct when viewed from the outside of a window.

Actual size versions were printed in Issue 7. The round I "heart" CW is about 3", the rectangle FISTS logo key is about the same size as the logo on the cover and is in color.

They are only 50 cents each, which is a pretty good deal, if I do say so myself. We had to buy in quantity to get such a good price, so buy lots of them! Please include 50 cents for postage if only buying the clings.

Remember, we also have sweatshirts (in addition to tshirts and polos) for \$11 - which is also quite reasonable for a quality fleece shirt that is printed on both sides (gray shirt with blue "I'm Proud to be a Know Code Ham" on the front and "FISTS CW CLUB" on the back). Hint to the Spouses: they make excellent Christmas gifts!

Icom Repair

In a recent issue of the Keynote, you asked if any of us knew of a ham radio repair shop. I know a fellow who has done a couple of repairs for me and also for others based on my recommendation. His name is Kuni Okuma, W7JV. He does only Icom radios. He used to work for Icom but now is on his own. He actually still does many (like 25-50 a week) repairs, commercial and ham gear, on a contract basis for Icom.

His labor rates are about half of what Icom charges. He is located near Poulsbo, Washington and his e-mail address is W7JV@aol.com. Phone number is 360-731-9061.

Now, I know that Poulsbo, WA is pretty isolated from the rest of the USA but thought I would pass the info along anyway.

Keep up the great work for FISTS and World Radio. I don't know how you do it all. 73/88,

George Hoffman, W7POE

Check Your Logging Program Clock

Please remind members to check their computers AND logging programs to make sure they have the correct UTC time after October 28, when daylight saving time used to end. For a few weeks in the spring, almost all of the QSL cards I received had the wrong time.

It's not enough to just change the computer's time. The logging program must also be aware that daylight saving time has not ended.

It would also be an idea to remind them to make sure they also put the proper date on their cards. The date changes at midnight UTC, not midnight local time.

About a third of the cards I receive are incorrect which is pretty sad when you think about it.
73, Don VE3HUR 11349

A DX Story

by Charlie KA8OQF

It was a dark and stormy night...well, it was dark, OK?

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association was having one of its "we don't meet officially in the summer" barn bashes (club deejay, pizza, cold beverages, radio storytellin', club station fired up and emitting), and I got there fashionably after hours, after the monthly meeting of the astronomy club.

A good time was being had, and some new gear was being shown off — a SteppIR 40-10 beam on one lowband station, and a 30-10 (if I recall) multielement radiator on the other one, both antennas being at 100+ feet.

I'd been cussin' and discussin' this/that/the other with several club members...Shana, from down at work (some recent developments in the IT world)...Jim, club prez (how we gonna get my big monster 80mm aperture observing binoculars hooked to the ATV xmitter for one heck of a pic-

ture of the Moon)...Rob, youth outreach type for the club (Rob ol' sock, I know ya'd love to have me doing more, but I work nights - kinda puts a crimp in things). Finally I got around to getting 5 minutes' training on the new SteppIR beam.

My my my...an internal cable and reel sets the length of the driven element inside hollow tubing...no tuner needed...can be set for bi-directional use...a unique setup to be sure. I started twiddling and fiddling just to see what this beast could do.

The rig is a barefoot Yaesu 990 (and luckily I was rather familiar with it), eventually winding up on 30m. Hey, I said, sezzi, there's a pileup here...wonder who they're working?

Listening down a few kHz and switching back and forth between VFO's, eventually a call sign came out of the muck...1A0KM...woof...

Hokay, let's do this...buttons on antenna 'tuner'...frequency of interest 10.100...rotator a tad this way...it's in bidirectional mode...I'll either nail him straight or long path...he's at about 105...listening up at 108 and change...sidetone only here, set the keyer...he's a bit faster than that...there we go...power to the tower...hunt...peck...up...down...float...listen around...he listens around, it seems, can't quite pick out a pattern on him...but everyone is hunkered down on a cen-

tral set of frequencies...how can he hear one out of a thousand on the same freq?...ah hah, he can't...he's picking out some guys on the edges where it's quieter...

And therein was the secret...lots of people dead in the middle of the channel, but those on the outer edges were having better luck. The op in Italy defined 'edge'...so let's go out where there's still some folk, but find a relatively quiet spot and do our thing. Listening split for when he's done, and where his last contact sorta was...I let out a war whoop that woke Rob up across the room when I finally nailed him.

For the first 'official' night of operation for the new station setup, that's not bad...1A0KM on 30m...at about 75 watts out...it's logged...time to go home, my work here is done...hee hee hee...Charlie KA8OQF FISTS #1478

The Talking Dog

(no critical feedback please, it's only a joke!!)

During a recent trip my wife and I were on we drove around the back woods of East Texas near Athens. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and saw a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" I asked. "Yep," the Lab replies. Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I

asked "So, what's your story?" "Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I ask? The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a Ham. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers & with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years.

"Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years). In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party."

I said, "Let me see what I can do." I went back in and ask the owner what he wanted for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician."

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

When is old "Sol" going to wake up and get with the program? Band conditions have been less than good.

We have a number of members that have already qualified for the 20-20 Award Plaque.

All logs submitted for 20-20 Awards must be post marked no later than Jan 31, 2008 in order to qualify for the 20-20 certificate and/or plaque.

20-20 Award plaques will be ordered the beginning of February 2008. I anticipate having the plaques in the mail no later than the beginning of March.

Remember, even though you may not be able to get a plaque, you can still get the 20-20 Award Certificate for working at least 20 - 20 minute QSO's in one month before the end of this year. It is a nice looking full color certificate.

You may use the following e-mail address, (Fistsawards@comcast.net) for sending in your award logs. Excel, Word, and Text files are the only file types accepted. Please read the e-mail log rules on the FISTS web site for details.

Send in complete logs for awards. That means all of the following

information; Call, Date of QSO, Band, FISTS Nr., Point/s claimed for each QSO. Incomplete logs, delay receiving your award certificate.

Check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them:

<http://www.fists.org/awards.html>

If you have any questions about the awards that are not answered on the FISTS awards web page, feel free to e-mail your questions to me: fistsawards@comcast.net Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

AWARDS ISSUED

October 10 to Nov 28, 2007

Basic Century (CC)

K9PET
KC2EE
KC2MJT
VE5BCS
W0SZP
W2FTB
W4UCZ
WA4ONV
WC5M

Silver Century

AE0G

Diamond Century

N7QU
W5GXV
WB9DLC

RCC Award

AD7JY
KE5HL

Platinum Award
NS8V

NANFA Award
N4GX

20-20 October

AB8EL
AD5WI
AD7JY
K0TC
KA8HFN
KC0JKD
KD0V
KG4NNN
KK0I
KS3S
VE1VEI
VE3HUR
W3MWR
W5GXV
W7GVE
W9SJW
WB0PYF
WB2MIC
WB4MED
WI0S

Millionaire
W4UCZ

3 Million
AD7JY
K8IJ

4 Million
VE3HUR

8 Million
AD5WI

9 Million
K4IA
W5GXV

Do We Abbreviate Too Much? Here's Your Feedback

I certainly agree with your evaluation of the problem. Since I tend to stick with the 20 wpm and under cw operators, the offenders that abbreviate too much for my understanding are perhaps less than one in ten contacts. During these poor solar times with low signal strength and significant QSB conditions trying to copy what is being sent to you takes on added levels of challenge.

It has gotten to the point for me that under poor copy conditions if there is excessive abbreviations being used and I don't understand what is being sent, I will politely end the QSO and move on. During my years of being a cw operator my feelings are such that there are few things available to me to help my contact understand what I send to him/her. I'm in no rush to complete my contact and to fully spell out most words of my communication is my way of telling the contact that I truly appreciate his effort to contact me.

The offender may not realize or doesn't care how he is perceived. Perhaps the best way for them to gain that understanding is reading articles like the one you wrote. Thank you, it can only help.

Sincerely, Vern Lovelace,
AA7VW, 10,044

After reading your article in the 4/5, 2007 issue of the KEYNOTE, I thought I would like to respond positively. The article was well done and touched an area that I too have noticed, and feel, that it needs addressing.

At my age skills in such things as copying morse code have dwindled. I learned the Morse Code in the Navy during WW11. I went to radio school in San Diego, CA and was assigned to the Staff Com 7th Phib, headed by Adm Daniel Barbey. We were on communications ships wherever Adm Barbey was. One of the things that still sticks in my mind was that in order to copy code, "Fox Schedules", Task Group Nets, Task Force nets, Voice, and at the end of the war, Radio Telegraph, and in order to hold your own in these situations, "Accuracy" was number One. If the encoded messages were not copied accurately, somebody was on your case! We had to learn good clean copy, as well as send good clean copy.

The various schedules and nets required that you build your speed to whomever you were operating with. As such, one would work hard on his Fist, usually easily recognized by the many operators in the fleet. True, encoded messages were usually in 5 letter groups that made it easier to develop a good EAR in order to copy it on those old Underwood mills. There were approved "Q" signals just as in the amateur

code, but NO abbreviated forms of words were used in plain language transmissions. Too hard to copy, particularly with a pencil!

Enough of rattling on, I heartedly approve of the Motto of FISTS, "Accuracy Transcends Speed".

Using a good straight key is my thing, although I still have an old Vibroflex that I bought while in the navy. You can usually tell those operators that still try to gain speed with their paddles, usually with less than good results. When the whole context of the communication has been shortened because of tnks, u, snd strng, it takes all the fun out of it! Sincerely, Tom KC7YKT #11728

Read your interesting article in the Keynote and I must say that I concur with you 100%.

It just ruins a QSO when one uses more than the old time abbreviations that have been in use since the early days of ham radio.

73, Frank, W9WOC ... "Pounding Brass for 55 years".

I am of the opposite opinion. I get annoyed when OM's don't use abbreviations. It is time consuming and tedious to spell everything out. But to each his own. If you like to spell out everything go ahead. I'll just say vy fb to U. Hope to wk u some time.
73 Bob K3FQP Fists #13080

WONDER MODE EMERGES IN AMATEUR RADIO

by Richard Taesch,
K6TOB, FISTS #10166

Having been an Amateur Radio Operator long enough to know the joy of kit-building a Heathkit AT-1 transmitter, I continue to marvel at the rising technology of amateur digital modes these days. And yet I must confess - as one who spends substantial time with state-of-the-art computers in my work - the thought of using a keyboard for my precious radio operating time is enough to give me nightmares.

Even so, I simply cannot contain my excitement any longer! And although a bit premature, I must share this technological discovery with my Fists Ham Radio brothers and sisters. Although it is still in the "experimental" stages, I predict that we may soon see a new wave of users diving in, and perhaps even see societies and organizations devoted entirely to its use. This is a technology so revolutionary, that computer keyboards are clearly "boat anchors" by comparison.

This technology is not unlike an early device that - when placed upon one's head - would enable a blind person to actually see print! It was capable of transmitting a print image directly to the brain of a blind individual. Upon seeing print music, for example, a blind braille specialist once commented: "How do you guys read that stuff?" Frankly, when con-

sidering the complex and archaic graphics of print music notation (which makes little sense logically speaking), one can easily understand why digital technology has become so popular.

The technology for radio that we are speaking of is a tangible communication medium capable of bypassing the eyes, the tongue, some language barriers, and will allow a sighted or blind person to receive thought impulses via the senses directly into the brain! When transmitting, one need not even speak or type! With certain kinds of disabilities, no limb movement whatsoever is also possible. Curious? Read on.

Even in its most basic form of radio as we know it, this medium requires no expensive and complex equipment - no modulators, no speech processors, no software, no monitors, no keyboards, no repeaters, no satellites - and it is virtually available to every licensed Radio Amateur anywhere who desires to communicate globally, and yet remain independent. With a few ounces of gear in your day pack, on foot, you can communicate your thoughts with the world from anywhere with a dipole in a tree. You don't have to speak a word, or even hear the harsh words sometimes present on our ham bands today.

Unlike computer-related radio, one need not be a typist, nor develop the multi-tasking skills required of a commercial jet pilot in order to operate today's com-

plex menu-driven radios. This new communication skill will even allow a handicapped person to send and receive from impulses of - not ten - but only one or two fingers. Imagine! A recent article in QST re-affirms that this medium could even be activated by merely breathing in and out through a special device for those without use of their hands. Perhaps even a deaf person might one day receive impulses through this technology by means of some simple vibration interface.

This "new" technology is called Continuous Wave! Not CW depending on typing skills, miles of hook-up wire, software programs, lap tops, monitors, code readers, keen eyes to stare at a screen and special glasses needed to see it, training to not look back and forth from fingers to screen, CRT exposure risks, etc., etc..., just pure and simple radio telegraph.

Like braille for the blind, the International or Morse code is truly "our only direct human digital communications mode ..." * Incredible technology, indeed! (*American Radio Relay League - ARRL Southwestern Division Newsletter, January, 2004)

In its true form, CW can originate from the brain through a minimal movement of the fingers, pass through a simple radio circuit and a wire antenna, and be then read directly through the senses on the receiving end. In a world where we may soon see a small computer keyboard in our water clos-

ets to activate the flush and calculate the amount of tissue needed, how refreshing it is that we do have some choices left in this digital world of ours.

I will leave you with a heart warming story of true human digital brain-to-brain communication:

My colleague in the field of music and visual impairment tells of his dying uncle who had served in the British Navy as a CW radio operator. While visiting the man - totally motionless and seemingly paralyzed on his deathbed - the family noticed that the only movement in his body was that of a nervous blinking of his eyes. Having no knowledge or past exposure to radio people, much time went by as they wondered at his curious twitches. He could not speak, write, move, or communicate in any way - or so they thought.

My colleague being a creative and artistic person, studied his uncle's movements, and soon connected them to an effort to "speak" to the family before he passed on.

"Of course, it must be telegraph code!" What else could it be? Carefully, David wrote down the patterns while observing the mark and space regularity of the movements. He then researched the radio telegraph code and its origins, and alas, a breakthrough was made! A final communication from the dying man had occurred. His only words - generated by the powerful digital technology of the

radio-telegraph he spent his Navy career using - stated, "...please, leave me alone!"

Folks, our ability to communicate with those little dots and dashes is perhaps one of our purest ways of speaking to each other. It is free of unconscious, sometimes unkind, inflections of emotions found in tongue speech. Without the time to write and edit typewritten text in a buffer, next to a smile, a sigh of wonder, or an act of kindness, real CW remains the only "direct human digital communications mode."

Of course we should work diligently to embrace and support new technology, and by all means, don't give up your keyboards. Develop and share high speed code-reading and sending skills, but never, NEVER neglect your paddles and keys for their sake. It is our responsibility to guard, preserve, and to teach the ability to communicate directly from those unspoiled places in the human heart - through the camaraderie of radio - using a mere finger movement, a breath, or the wink of an eye.

(This article is loosely based - with permission - on one appearing in News Journal Issue 17 of "Music Education Network for The Visually Impaired," Winter/Spring 2004.)

END NOTE: David's uncle (coincidentally?) passed on the same day that Morse was removed from use as an official communications mode.

QRP With K3WWP

by John Shannon, K3WWP

This column (#82) features info from Mike Greenfield, N9JIY who writes: "John, ...always like your Fists articles, and this note isn't about contesting, but may be of some interest."

I'm sure it will as there is much more to QRP than just contesting. In fact portable operating which Mike discusses is very popular with QRP operators. Back to you, Mike.

"Another QRP 'Flavor' may be 'Hogan's Heroes' operating. When I was travelling, I'd often pack a small 80M rig, a small MFJ random wire tuner, wire and various clips and connectors, then try to get out of my motel/hotel room back to the Wisconsin evening CW nets.

"Most often, my antennas had to stay in the room. Sometimes it would work, sometimes not, but I learned a lot. For example:

1. A banana plug in the 3rd hole on a wall outlet generally makes a pretty good ground, but you can pop your GFI. Water pipes/fixtures are much harder to connect to, and may not work anyway.
2. Keep antenna wires away from curtain rods & mirrors. These make tuning impossible.
3. Don't worry much about RFI in the TV. Hotel cable systems are pretty bulletproof.
4. Get a room far from neon lights, ice machines, etc. These are a huge QRN problem.
5. Rigging a wire out a window is usually not an option. Same

with down an interior hallway. Too much mechanical interference. Keep up the good work & 73!" Mike G., N9JIY

I asked Mike to elaborate further and talk about some of his specific setups and results. Here's what he added in a later email:

"...sounds good. The "when all else fails try this" antenna was a loop of wire layed out on the bed with a couple of big 10 or 20 ohm non-inductive power resistors in series to get "impedance" close enough for the tuner to reach.

"(I) often could hear signals, but couldn't be heard. Occasionally got picked out by some station & did QNI via QSP.

"80M (was) very tough due to the cramped operating space BUT I figured it was better to try 80M where net operators would be looking for my signal, recognize it, and be willing to work harder to pick it out, than random luck on another band. I think 80M QRP has the advantage of regular nets as "targets".

"My rig then was an ancient Swan MB-80 monobander. Rig-of-choice now is 40M RockMite outdoors to real single-wire-fed Windom without a tuner or anything, but with a counterpoise layed on ground. I don't know if the counterpoise was any help, but makes me feel better.

"Advantages are: No bulky coax, just 20 gauge wire feed with a clip on one end and a banana plug on other. No fat center connector for coax. Just hang ant with nylon string.

"Operate at 9V with 2 9V

batteries in PARALLEL. Single 9V is just not horse enough for much transmit time, BUT other batteries need bulky holders. Key is Tee-Knee key. Very small. All this makes travel package abt size of really small shaving kit.

"Tested the final 2N2222 on my RockMite key down into open circuit and key down into short circuit. The 2N2222 got hot, but didnt blow, so no tuner needed, I say! Might even work with an end-fed wire, but I figure better. 73!" MikeG/N9JIY

Good info Mike. Thanks for sharing. Portable operating can be a lot of fun if you are properly prepared. Mike's info should help in that preparation.

We've had some NAQCC events geared toward portable operating, and will have more in the future. See the NAQCC web site at <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>. Also come visit me at <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/>. Till next column, 73. K3WWP

Zero-Beating with a Guitar Tuner

I have never seen or read about this operating tip anywhere so I hope I have not re-invented the 'wheel'.

It is very important to be as close to zero beat with the other station as possible. It was always a struggle for me to get perfectly zero beat. The Spot function that is on some radios is problematic at best - at least for me. The other method that I have read about and still use when running mobile is to zero beat by making sure the sidetone pitch on CW and CW-R

are the same. It works fairly well, but it still is not as easy or as accurate as I would like.

I knew that if the sidetone frequency set on my radio perfectly matched the received audio frequency, I would be perfectly zero beat with him. What I decided to do was to connect a guitar chromatic tuner, which is set to Pitch Mode, to the audio output of my radio (the tuner has an output jack as well so it doesn't shut off the audio to the headphones or external speaker). I then key my radio and read the sidetone note displayed on the chromatic tuner.

All that is required then is to then tune the other station to the point where his audio frequency which is read on the guitar tuner to the same reading as what my sidetone note reading was. At that point I know I am exactly zero beat with him.

It doesn't matter where you have your sidetone set, all you have to do is read your sidetone note on the guitar tuner and match his audio to your sidetone reading. I found this method to be very accurate and very quick to zero beat with the other operator.

My next step is to integrate the chromatic tuner functionality into the radio. This should be fairly simple to do in any radio. I hope I was able to explain it clearly enough where it would be easy for anyone to apply it. Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Hope this proves useful.
73, Bill Ecton AD0CW

Slow Speed CW Nets

Name:	NTS?	Purpose:	Coverage Area:	Freq:	Alt:	Days:	Local:	UTC:	Manager:	Reporting:	Updated:
Alabama Training Net	✓	Traffic, Training	SE United States	3.712		Dy	18:00	0:00	KG4IMI	KG4IMI	06/25/05
Amateur Radio Telegraph Society Net		Traffic, Training	Wide Coverage	7.052		Dy	6:30	12:30	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	05/05/07
British Columbia Emergency Net	✓	Emergency Traffic	BC, AB, SK, MB, WA, OR, ID, MT	3.652		Dy	19:00	3:00	VE7XLH	VE7DWG	12/16/03
Carolinas Slow Net (CSN)	✓	Traffic/Code Practice	NC and SC	3.571		Dy	20:00	1:00	NØSU	W4EAT	08/01/07
Empire Slow Speed (ESS)		Traffic, Training	NE US	3.576		Dy	18:00	23:00	W12G	W12G	01/10/07
Florida Medium Speed Net (FMSN)	✓	Traffic	FL	3.552		Dy	18:30		AG4RJ	AG4RJ	04/13/07
Georgia Training Net (GTN)	✓	Traffic, Training	SE US	3.549		Dy	21:00	2:00	N4VAD	N4VAD	04/01/07
Handham Informal Slow Speed CW Net				7.112		F	9:30		W8IRT	KØHLA	04/11/07
Hit and Bounce Slow Speed Net (HBSN)		Traffic, Training	Eastern & Central	3.576		Dv	19:30	11:30	WD8DIN	K2TV	03/15/07
Hoodview CW Net		CW Practice	Portland, OR Metro Area	28.130		Dy	19:00	3:00	AB7BI	N7QR	11/05/03
Idaho Montana Net (IMN)		Traffic, Training	ID & MT	3.647		Dy		3:00	N7MPS	VE7DWG	04/16/05
K9YA Slow Net		Practice/fun	Continental US	7.121		2,3,4 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	K9PL	03/10/07
Kansas Slow Speed Net			KS	3.710		MW	19:30			KC0CCR	04/16/05
Kentucky Slow Net (KSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	KY, East Central and SE US	3.579		Dy	22:00	3:00	KO4OL	KO4OL	06/21/07
Maine Slow Speed Net	✓		ME	3.585		Dy	18:00		W1QU	N1MHC	04/11/07
Maryland Slow Net (MSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	NE USA & SE Canada	3.563		Dy	19:30	0:30	W8CPG	N3ZOC	06/01/07
Midsouth Training Net		Traffic, Code Practice	TN, AR, MS, AL, KY, & SE MO	3.593		Sn	18:00	0:00	WD4PTJ	WD4PTJ	05/09/07
Mountain States Net (MSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY	3.570	7 063	Dv	20:00		W0HXB	W0HXB	04/29/07
NARL Slow Speed	✓	Traffic, Training		28.180			20:00	1:00	AA1GW	N0UEP	01/20/07
NJ Slow Speed	✓	Traffic, Training	NJ	3.547		Dy	18:30	23:30	K2PB	W12G	01/20/07
Northern CA Slow Speed Net	✓	Traffic	EB, NV, SCV, SF, SV	3.705		Dy	21:00	5:00	WB6UZX	VE7DWG	11/11/03
Ohio Slow Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OH	3.535		Dy	18:10	23:10	WD8Q	WD8Q	03/09/07
Oklahoma Training Net	✓	Traffic, Training	Wide	7.120.6		Dy	17:20	23:20	WB5NKD	WB5NKC	05/05/07
Orange County Wireless Net		Practice, Chat	Orange County CA & Nearby Cnties	7.086		Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KE6OIO	03/17/06
Oregon Section Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OR	3.587		Dy	22:00	6:00	KC7SRL	N0UEP	01/20/07
Oregon Section Net	✓	Traffic, Training	OR	3.587		Dy	18:30	2:30	W7IZ	N0UEP	01/20/07
PA Traffic & Training Net	✓	Traffic, Training	PA	3.537		MWF	18:30		N3SW	N3SW	04/09/07
Sandia Valley ARC Slow Speed Net		Code Practice / Ragchew	Southwest US	7.063		W	21:00	4:00	WB7RHT	WB7RHT	12/16/03
Texas Slow Net (TSN)	✓	Traffic, Training	TX & other	3.552		Dy	19:45	2:00	W5ESE	WB5NKC	05/05/07
Utah Code Net (UCN)	✓	Traffic, Training	Utah and surrounding states	3.570		Dy	19:30	2:30	NA7G	NA7G	04/13/07
VE2UMS Traffic Net		Traffic	Quebec (Canada) and surrounding re	3.578		W	20:00	1:00	VE2CBW	VE2CBW	01/20/07
West Coast Slow Speed (WCN)		Traffic, Training	West coast US	3.540		Dy	19:00	3:00	K7WCN	K7EX	04/27/07

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This list was generated on: *Sunday, September 02, 2007*

High Speed CW Nets

Name:	NTS?	Purpose:	Coverage Area:	Freq:	Alt:	Days:	Local:	UTC:	Manager:	Reporting:	Updated:
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Early	✓	Traffic	FL	7.051	3.547	Dy	19:00		NY4E	W8IM	05/18/C
All FL CW Traffic Net (QFN) - Late	✓	Traffic	FL	3.547		Dy	22:00		NY4E	W8IM	05/18/C
Buckeye Net (BN) Early	✓	NTS Section Net	Ohio	3.577		Dy	18:45		WD8KFN	WE8AUQ	03/15/C
Buckeye Net (BN) Late	✓	NTS Section Net	Ohio	3.577		Dy	22:00		NY8V	WD8AUQ	03/15/C
FIRST Region (in) Net	✓	Traffic	ME,NH,VT,MA,CT,RI	5.598		Dy	21:30		K8SH	N1MHC	04/27/C
FIRST Region (out) Net	✓	Traffic	ME,NH,VT,MA,CT,RI	3.598		Dy	19:45		K8SH	N1MHC	04/27/C
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Early	✓	Traffic	GA	3.549		Dy	19:00	0:00	K4GK	K4BAI	04/27/C
Georgia Section Net (GSN) - Late	✓	Traffic	GA	3.549		Dy	22:00	3:00	K4GK	N4VAD	04/01/C
Hit 'N Bounce Net (HBN)	✓	Traffic	Eastern/MidWest US	7.042	7.114	Dy	8:30		WD8DIN	W8IM	05/24/C
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	✓	Traffic	IN	3.535		Dy		13:30	K9PUI	NA9U	04/29/C
IN Section CW Net -- QIN	✓	Traffic	IN	3.535		Dy	19:00	0:00	KJ9J	NA9U	04/27/C
K9YA Fast Net		Practice/fun	Continental US	7.121		1 W	19:00	1:00	N9BOR	K9PL	03/10/C
Lake Erie Boat Anchors Net (LEBN)		Tube gear usage	General	7.094		S	13:00	18:00	W8KYD	W8KYD	03/11/C
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Early	✓	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.557		Dy	19:00	0:00	AA3SB	N3ZOC	01/20/C
MD DE DC Net (MDD) - Late	✓	Traffic	MD, DE, DC	3.557		Dy	22:00	3:00	AA3SB	N3ZOC	01/20/C
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 20 m Net		On air activity	Southern CA	14.055		S	7:30	15:30	KA6G	KA6G	12/20/C
Morse Telegraph Club-SQ -- 40 m Net		On air activity	Southern CA	7.084		S	8:30	16:30	KA6G & WA	KA6G	12/20/C
New York State CW - Early	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	19:00	0:00	N2QZ	WI2G	01/20/C
New York State CW - Late	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	22:00	3:00	W2YGW	WI2G	01/10/C
New York State CW - Morning	✓	Traffic	NY	3.576		Dy	10:00	15:00	KA2GJV	WI2G	01/10/C
Northern California Net	✓	Traffic	Northern CA & NV	3.533		Dy	19:00		K9JM	K9JM	10/20/C
Oklahoma CW Traffic Net (OTN)	✓	Traffic & Training	Oklahoma	3.552	7.052	Dy	22:30		AA0NI	AA0NI	09/03/C
Oklahoma CW Traffic Net (OTN)	✓	Traffic & Training	Oklahoma	3.552	7.052	Dy	18:30		AA0NI	AA0NI	09/03/C
Orange County Wireless Net (OCWN)		Practice/Social	Orange County CA	7.086		Sn	9:00	17:00	KF6UEB	KF6UEB	03/07/C
Pine Tree Net	✓	Traffic	ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI	3.596		Dy	19:00		W1KX	N1MHC	04/11/C
QNM	✓	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663		Dy	22:00	3:00	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/C
QNM	✓	Traffic & WX	MI	3.663		Dy	19:30	0:30	WB8SIW	WB8SIW	04/16/C
Texas CW Net (Early)	✓	Traffic	TX	3.552		Dy	19:00	1:00	AC5XK	WZ8C	04/27/C
Texas CW Net (Late)	✓	Traffic	TX	3.552		Dy	22:00	3:00	AC5XK	WZ8C	04/27/C
Tin Can Sailors CW Net		Code practice	General coverage	7.117		W	10:00		N3RSD	N3RSD	07/15/C
Virginia Net Early (VNE)	✓	Traffic	VA	3.578		Dy X T	19:00	0:00	KV4AN	WI2G	01/20/C
W6MTC CW net -- FISTS 10350		Code Practice	Southern CA, AZ & NV	7.084		S	8:30	15:30	KA6G	KS6CW	04/09/C

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This list was generated on: Monday, September 03, 2007

Slow Speed CW Nets

<i>Name:</i>	<i>NTS?</i>	<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>Coverage Area:</i>	<i>Freq:</i>	<i>Alt:</i>	<i>Days:</i>	<i>Local:</i>	<i>UTC:</i>	<i>Manager:</i>	<i>Reporting:</i>	<i>Updated:</i>
Wisconsin Novice Net (WNN)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	18:00	0:00	KB9ROB	KB9ROB	03/10/07
Wisconsin Slow Speed Net (WSSN)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	18:30	0:30	N9JIY	N9JIY	04/13/07

High Speed CW Nets

<i>Name:</i>	<i>NTS?</i>	<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>Coverage Area:</i>	<i>Freq:</i>	<i>Alt:</i>	<i>Days:</i>	<i>Local:</i>	<i>UTC:</i>	<i>Manager:</i>	<i>Reporting:</i>	<i>Updated:</i>
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	7:30	14:30	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	21:45	5:45	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Washington State Net (WSN)	✓	Traffic	Washington State	3.563		Dy	18:45	2:45	W7QM	W7GB	04/09/07
Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN/E)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	19:00	1:00	WB9ICH	W9UW	04/09/07
Wisconsin Intrastate Net (WIN/L)	✓	Traffic	WI & Surrounding States	3.555		Dy	22:00	4:00	W9UW	W9UW	04/09/07

Note: NTS is checked if the net is affiliated with the National Traffic System. "Coverage Area" is the geographical area the net primarily serves however, other stations are always welcome to check in. All frequencies are in Mhz. "Alt" is the alternate net frequency. "Days" indicates what local days of the week or month the net meets (i.e. "1,3 W" -- the net meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. "MWF" -- the net meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. "Dy" -- the net meets daily. "Dy X T" -- the net meets daily except on Tuesdays.) Times are listed for the winter months (i.e. not daylight savings time.) Send updates, additions and corrections to KA2QIK/7 at pjkroth@juno.com or 7956 E. Feathersong Ln., Scottsdale, AZ 85255

This list was generated on: Sunday, September 02, 2007

HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene W08E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible

We offer: Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50

I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4" round stickers, \$3.50 for 200

Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" octagon logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back \$1.50

White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50

Embroidered cloth patch of our rectangle key logo, \$1.00. The patches can be ironed on or sewn.

Plastic travel mugs (with lid) with I "heart" CW on both sides in red and blue. \$5.00

Static Clings for car windows; 2 styles - the I 'heart' CW, and the FISTS key logo. 50 cents each. No postage necessary if ordered along with other items. If ordered alone, please include 50 cents for postage/envelope per total Cling order, NOT per cling (example, 1 cling would be \$1, 2 clings would be \$1.50, 5 clings = \$3)

You may use Paypal to order supplies. Send the total amount to fists@tir.com and put the items you would like in the Paypal comments box. Be sure your name & address are included. ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL (except for orders of just static window clings, add 50 cents)

HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS? Show the world that you are proud to be a FISTS member. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. The front of the t-shirts and **sweatshirts** are printed with:

I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham

and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and

Join the Code Crusade

<http://www.fists.org>

The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy) **Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back.** The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck.

Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL.(only polos and sweats avail in 3X, **3X T's are sold out and Medium Polos are sold out**)

All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Price are: T-shirts = \$6.00 Sweats = \$11.00 Polos = \$15.00

PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. NOTE: Contact WZ8C (nancy@tir.com) for non-USA or bulk order postage.

You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

Checks payable to FISTS, Paypal to fists@tir.com.

WHAT IS KN0WCW AND HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW?

KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Karl Zuege, KB1DSB (kb1dsb@sover.net). A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

HOW DO I RENEW MY FISTS SUBSCRIPTION? Send \$15 to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. If you have a Paypal account (www.paypal.com) send \$15 to FISTS@tir.com. If you are 80 years of age or older, or if you are under 18, renewals are free, but you need to acknowledge you want to renew.

FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

*Please note that YOUR RENEWAL DATE is
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either in FISTS# year/month/day format or
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Save volunteer wear and tear - renew now, don't wait for a renewal postcard.

If your renewal date is incorrect, let WZ8C Nancy know so she can fix it.

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